



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 2852
Examiner: Robert B. Beatty

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Applicant(s): Hiroyuki INOUE et al.

Appl. No.: 10/827,372

Filed: April 20, 2004

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

Atty. ref.: MAE 312

**INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT
AND FEE**

March 14, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted in compliance with the timing requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(2), i.e., after the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final Action or Notice of Allowance, along with the required fee of \$180, under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Attached is a copy of a Japanese patent publication, which was cited by the Japanese Patent Office on September 20, 2005, in connection with a counterpart application. Any relevance of the publication may be gleaned from the attached English-language abstract. The publication is listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Consideration of the listed document is respectfully requested.

Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

03/15/2006 HALI11 00000110 10827372

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180.00 OP

March 14, 2006

Date

RHB/vm

Respectfully submitted,

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FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Atty. reference:

MAE 312

Application No.:

10/827,372

Applicant(s):

Hiroyuki INOUE et al.

Filing date:

April 20, 2004

Group art unit:

2852

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial | | Document Number | Date | Name | Class | Sub-Class | Filing Date |
|------------------|----|-----------------|------|------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| | AA | | | | | | |
| | AB | | | | | | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
| | AF | | | | | | |
| | AG | | | | | | |
| | AH | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | Document Number | Date | Country | Class | Sub-Class | Translation |
|--|----|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| | AI | 2002-040822 | 02/06/2002 | JAPAN | | | Abstract |
| | AJ | | | | | | |
| | AK | | | | | | |
| | AL | | | | | | |
| | AM | | | | | | |
| | AN | | | | | | |

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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Examiner:

Date considered:

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.